

CALLED TO PRAY



January 18 – 25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

The whole Christian community throughout the world is invited to pray in communion with the prayer of Jesus “that they all may be one” (*Jn 17:21*).

The theme for the week is **“You are Witnesses of These Things”** (*Lk 24:48*).

We are already witnesses and we need to become better witnesses. How?
By...

- praising the One who gives us the gift of life and resurrection (Day 1)
- knowing how to share the story of our faith with others (Day 2)
- recognizing that God is at work in our lives (Day 3)
- giving thanks for the faith we have received (Day 4)
- proclaiming Christ's victory over all suffering (Day 5)
- seeking to always be more faithful to the Word of God (Day 6)
- growing in faith, hope and love (Day 7)
- offering hospitality and knowing how to receive it when it is offered to us (Day 8).

For a daily scripture and prayer guide on this theme, go to www.geii.org.

“When we pray, we talk to God. When we read the Bible, God talks to us.”

- St. Cyprian

**Coming February
7 and 10:
Praying through Lent and Easter
@ St. John**

Between NOW and THEN... + PLUS

Simple Ways to Develop a PRAYER Life

1. Make a sacred space.

Jesus said we should go to our room and pray to the Father in secret. Our sacred space could be somewhere in our home or out in nature. Places set aside for prayer are saturated with a sense of the presence of God, and the more we go to this place, the more we are drawn into the quiet of God.

2. Often say the name of Jesus.

"If you think of the name of Jesus continually and cling to it devotedly, then it will cleanse you from sin and set your heart aflame. It will enlighten your soul. . . and fill the soul to overflowing with love. It will chase off the devil and eliminate terror, open heaven, and create a mystic." - Richard Rolle, "The Form of Living," 14th c.

3. Read something from the Bible every day.

"Everything that we read in the sacred Books shines and glitters even in the outer shell; but the marrow is sweeter. Those who desire to eat the kernel must first break the shell." - Saint Jerome

4. Use opportunities to grow in wisdom.

In the school of life, difficult people are the faculty. They teach us our most important spiritual lessons, the lessons that we would be most unlikely to learn on our own. Figure out what you can learn from someone in your life who is "difficult." - Mark Rosen, *Thank You for Being Such a Pain*.

5. Pray in your car.

Get some Christian music that you like and listen to it or sing along. You could pray the rosary on a long trip. And keep a Bible or a spiritual book under your seat to pull out and read when you are waiting to pick someone up, waiting for a train, waiting for...

6. Pray your calendar.

Spend a minute each morning focusing on the spiritual dimension of the day ahead. Thank God for the blessings of spouse and children. Pray over appointments you will have that day and over the people you will encounter. Pray for the repair person who will come to your home to fix your computer, washer, etc.

7. Pray the newspaper or the TV news.

Thank God for the good things you read and see. Pray for those in need. Take the world into your heart and receive some of its burden. Look at the world through God's eyes. Be mindful of Jesus carrying the cross.

8. Read spiritual literature.

Always keep a good spiritual book, magazine, or newspaper at home. Pick up the diocesan newspaper *The Catholic Chronicle* or subscribe to a magazine such as *St. Anthony Messenger*, *U.S. Catholic*, *America*, or *Catholic Digest*. Or ask a friend or someone on your parish staff to help you find reading materials that might be helpful to you.

LEARN

Adults: Go to the parish website and click on "Generations of Faith." Click on the Call to Faith eConnect logo and enter your access code. Click on the Adult Learner Site and then on Understanding our Catholic Faith. Look for the section called **"How does the Church continue Christ's work?"** Read and reflect on the following articles, then share the fruit of your reflection with a trusted friend or faith-sharing group:

January 16	The Mystery of the Church
January 23	Marks of the Church
January 31	Church as Teacher

Youth and children:

The Call to Faith eConnect website offers Home Lessons for each chapter of the Call to Faith textbook Gr. K-8. Each week explore a chapter of Unit 4/The Church with your parents:

January 16	Chapter 10
January 23	Chapter 11
January 31	Chapter 12

Each week click on your grade level on the Learner Site and enjoy a review.

Youth and Young Adults:

Defiance College Catholics on Campus invites everyone to "The Conversion Story of Chris Schwartz: Atheism to Roman Catholicism" on Wednesday, February 3, at 7:00 p.m. in Schomburg Auditorium. Chris is a professional breakdance entertainer with an inspiring message. All are welcome!

The **Diocesan Course of Study** recommends that by

- grade 2 children know how to make the Sign of the Cross and how to say the Our Father and the Glory Be.
- grade 3 children know how to say the Hail Mary.
- grade 5 students know how to say an Act of Contrition and understand the Apostles' Creed.
- Junior High students understand the Nicene Creed and the mysteries of the Rosary; they also experience praying the Rosary, the Stations of the Cross and are introduced to the Liturgy of the Hours.

See www.calltofaithconnect.org for these and other traditional prayers.

Books

*Praying Scripture for a Change:
An Introduction to Lectio Divina,*
Dr. Tim Gray

*Lectio Divina: Renewing the Ancient
Practice of Praying the Scriptures,*
M. Basil Pennington

In the Zone: A Teen Guide to Prayer Life,
Life Teen

Websites

www.worldprayers.org

<http://sacredspace.ie/> 10-minute reflection on the daily Mass readings.

<http://liturgy.slu.edu/> The Sunday Scriptures website of St. Louis University.

UNITY

Knitters Unite! The Prayer Shawl Ministry is a way to reach out with love and care to others who are hurting or in need of a special blessing. The shawls are knitted or crocheted while praying for the person who will use it. These shawls are meant to be given away and not to be sold.

For more information,

- Call Sr. Dean at the parish office.
- Go to www.shawlministry.com for knitting or crocheting directions and for prayers while making a prayer shawl.
- Find the book *The Prayer Shawl Ministry: Reaching Those in Need*.

SERVE (*actio*)

Praying with the Scriptures is not complete until we ask: How does, how will, how can this overflow into my actions, my life, my behavior?

Write who or what you wish to pray for:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Write what you can really do to bring about the answer to your prayer:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.